

10/589,312

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 14, 18-24 and 26 as follows in which the claim additions are shown by underlining and/or the claim deletions are shown by either strikeout or brackets. Please enter the amended claims into the record of this case.

[026] As seen in the illustration according to fig. 2, for each segment 5 two hydraulic cylinder-piston aggregates 4 are provided. The segments 5 again comprise the pivot bearings 11 and are further connected via a joint 12 to the lid 1, whereby this joint 12 is more closely pictured in fig. 3 and fig. 4 and possesses a swivel axis extending generally normal to the lid surface. In the embodiment according to fig. 2 ears 13 are further visible and have bearing eyes 35, into which after locking of the segments 5 corresponding safety pins can be introduced, to additionally lock the locking position mechanically. In the embodiment according to fig. 3 a possible swivel drive of the swivel arm 16 is schematically indicated with 33. ✓

1-13. (CANCELED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A locking device for the fixation of a lid (1) in an opening of a pressure container with at least two locking segments (5) that are displaceable at right angles to ~~[[the]]~~ an axis of the opening, ~~[[which]]~~ the segments (5) bear protrusions (6) and groove-like recesses ~~along their circumference~~ about an outer circumferential face, which in ~~[[the]]~~ a locked position cooperate with recesses (7) and protrusions along ~~[[the]]~~ a brim (8) of the opening, ~~whereby the~~ a displacement actuator of the segments (5) is linked to the segments (5) and to at least one point of application that is on the lid (1) or on a member (3) connected to the lid (1);

wherein the segments (5) ~~[[that]]~~ are arranged in the direction of the circumference of the lid (1) and are pivotably supported on the lid (1) by a swivel arm (16), separate from the displacement actuator, ~~[[being]]~~ that is interposed, ~~which~~ between the segments (5) and the lid (1), the swivel arm (16) in turn is pivotably connected to the segments (5).

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the displacement actuator of the segments (5) is each made up of at least one linear actuator (4) per segment (5).

16. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the points of application of the displacement actuator on the segments (5) and/or on the lid (1) or the member (3) connected with the lid (1) are designed as hinge bearings (10, 11) comprising bearing pins being pivotable about at least one axis.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the swivel arm (16) is connected to the lid (1) via a rotary or swivel drive (33).

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ pivotable support of the segments (5) on the lid (1) comprises at least one pivotable shaft (15) or pivot axle (14) ~~extending~~ that extend at right angles to the displacement movement of the segments (5).

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the segments (5) are connected to the lid (1) ~~to be~~ and adjustable ~~in an axial direction of~~ along the pivot axis (14) ~~in the height direction to facilitate adjustment of an axial separation of the segments (5) from the lid (1) along the pivot axis (14).~~

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 18, wherein the ~~[[axle]]~~ pivotable shaft (15) or ~~swivel the pivot~~ axis (14) is supported on the lid (1) on at least one bearing (22) being moveable at right angles to the swivel axis (14) and fixable in this adjusted position. ✓

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 18, wherein the ~~[[axle]]~~ pivotable shaft (15) or ~~swivel the pivot~~ axis (14) carries a bushing (17) parallel to the pivot axis(14), in which the segments (5) are pivotable and axially fixable in a direction ~~[[of]]~~ along the pivot axis~~height adjustably fixable~~(14). ✓

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 21, wherein the segments (5) are supported pivotably ~~and height adjustable, via operative springs (20),~~ on the bushing (17) ~~with in axial direction operative springs (20) being interposed and are axially adjustable along the pivot axis (14) to facilitate adjustment of an axial distance between the segments (5) and the lid (1).~~ ✓

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the segments (5) comprise at least two recesses or bearing eyes ~~for the reception of (35) which receive either~~ locking members or locking pins. ✓

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the lid (1) and the segments (5) linked to the lid (1) are mounted to a support (28) to be pivotable about an axis intersecting or crossing the axis (30) of the opening, the support (28) together with the lid (1) being pivotable about an axis (29) extending outside of the opening and perpendicular to the axis (30) of the opening. ✓

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 24, wherein the lid (1) is connected to the support (28) by a spring rod (31) having an adjustable position and being eccentrically arranged between the lid (1) and the support (28).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ actuating members (9) of a position switch (26) are provided, which actuating members (9) immerse in annular grooves (7) at right angles to the brim (8) of the opening. ✓

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A locking device for fixing of a lid (1) in an opening of a pressure container, the device comprising: ✓

at least two locking segments (5), each having an inner surface and an outer surface with protrusions (6) and recesses;

at least two actuating units (4) communicate with the inner surface of each of the at least two locking segments (5), each of the at least two actuating units (4) is coupled, via a hinge bearing (10), to an actuating rod (3) which is centrally supported by the lid (1); and

each locking segment (5) is pivotably coupled, via swivel arms (16), to a pivotable shaft (15) which is rotatably fixed to the lid (1) such that rotation of the pivotable shaft (15) biases the respective locking segment (5) radially outwardly at right angles to a central axis of the opening from an unlocked position to a locked position in which the protrusions (6) of the locking segment (5) engage grooves (7) in a brim (8) of the pressure container.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 27, wherein the swivel arms (16) are fixed at one end to the pivotable shaft (15) and an opposed end to a bushing (17), a bolt (19) axially secures the locking segment (5) to the bushing (17) such that the locking segment (5), the bushing (17) and the pivotable shaft (15) are axially parallel.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 28, wherein a cup spring (20) is supported coaxially with the bushing (17) and the bolt (19), between the locking segment (5) and the bushing (17), and axially biases the locking segment (5) with respect to pivotable shaft (15).